



UPDATE: Virginia Board for Geology

FALL 2004



New Board Members: Governor Warner has appointed three new members to the Board for Geology.

- **William S. Hastings, Jr.** was appointed to as a citizen member to succeed Kristina Bartlett Brody. Bill teaches environmental science at Thomas Dale High School in Chester, Virginia.
- **Robin E. Reed** was appointed as a certified geologist member to succeed Robert Baird. Robin is a Project Geologist with Schnabel Engineering South, LLC in Blacksburg.
- **Katherine Shewey White** was appointed as a citizen member to succeed Thomas B. Holmes, Jr. Kasey is the Director of Public Affairs at the Joint Oceanographic Institutions in Washington, DC and resides in Alexandria.

Virginia State Geologist: On October 8, 2004 Rick Berquist stepped down as the Virginia State Geologist. The State Geologist is an *ex officio* member of the Board for Geology. Rick's replacement will immediately become a member of the Board.

New e-mail address and new WWW address: The Board's e-mail address has been changed to Geology@dpor.virginia.gov. The DPOR WWW address has been changed to www.dpor.virginia.gov. Note that the only change is "state.va.us" has been replaced with "virginia.gov." Currently e-mail sent to the old address is automatically forwarded and those accessing the old www address are automatically redirected to the new address. Please update your e-mail address books and your "favorites" in your web browser. At some point in the future the automatic forwarding will be discontinued.

Technology Update: What is a passive diffusion bag (PDB) sampler? Now becoming widely used for characterizing a variety of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) dissolved in groundwater at many sites, it is typically a low-density polyethylene, lay-flat tube closed at both ends and filled with deionized water. When placed at the target horizons of a monitoring well, diffusion of VOCs (in and out of the device) continues until equilibrium is reached. Depending on the equilibrium time, which varies with the site and the specific VOCs, the sampler may be left in the well anywhere from two weeks to several months.

The use of PDB samplers has been accepted by many state and federal regulators, particularly for groundwater sampling associated with long-term monitoring, compliance and sentinel wells at sites where the nature and extent of groundwater contamination already has been characterized. Petroleum and chlorinated hydrocarbon VOCs such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and total xylenes (BTEX), tetrachloroethene, trichloroethene, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, and their degradation products, are well suited for PDB samplers.

PDB sampler advantages include: good data quality resulting from minimal sample agitation and VOC loss, and significant cost savings when compared to purge and sample methods by reducing field sampling level-of-effort and volume of investigation-derived wastes (IDW) generated. More information is available from: <http://www.itrcweb.org/>.

Resources for Geologists from the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

(DMME): Have you visited the DMME's Division of Mineral Resources website recently? Geologic maps continue to be printed but are also available on CD. Publication 174 "Digital Representation of the 1993 Geologic Map of Virginia" is a CD containing digital data files, raster images in tiff and jpg format, data in ESRI shapefile format, and a revised expanded explanation as a searchable pdf. Maps and publications may now be purchased on-line with a credit card in addition to traditional ordering. Visit DMME at <http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dmr/>.

EXAMINATION NEWS: This year marks the sixth year that the Board for Geology has been using the ASBOG national examination to determine eligibility for certification as a professional geologist in Virginia.

Examination fees are now paid directly to ASBOG rather than to the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

Geology Examination Results for Virginia applicants from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004:

Examination Type	Total Tested	Total Passed	Percentage Passed
Fundamentals of Geology	22	9	40.91 or 41%
Practice of Geology	22	9	40.91 or 41%

Website gets a new look: DPOR's website was recently redesigned to make it more useful to regulants and the public. Here is a review of what the website allows you to do from the comfort of your home or office:

- Renew your certificate on-line using the PIN number provided with your renewal notice.
- Determine whether an individual is a Virginia Certified Geologist or whether any individual or firm is licensed by a DPOR affiliated board using the on-line lookup feature.
- Download copies of the Board for Geology Regulations and the application forms needed to apply for Certification.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Thomas E. Rice, Chair (certified geologist)

Ms. Robin E. Reed (certified geologist)

Ms. Sarah L. Stinger (certified geologist)

Ms. Kasey White (citizen member)

Mr. William S. Hastings (citizen member)

Virginia State Geologist (*ex officio* member) VACANT

CONTACT THE BOARD: For your convenience, you can contact the Board for Geology with any questions or comments through several means -

1. Phone: 804-367-8507
2. FAX: 804-367-6128
3. E-mail: geology@dpor.virginia.gov
4. Mail: Board for Geology, 3600 West Broad Street, 5th floor, Richmond, VA 23230

Upcoming Meetings of the Board for Geology

**January 5, 2005, April 20, 2005, July 27, 2005,
and October 12, 2005**

The Board holds its meetings at:

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
3600 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23230

STAFF MEMBERS

Louise Fontaine Ware Director
Sandra Whitley Ryals Chief Deputy Director
Karen W. O'Neal..... Deputy Director, Licensing and
Regulation
David DickExecutive Director
Adrienne Mayo Office Manager

2007 ASBOG National Meeting coming to Williamsburg: The celebration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first permanent English settlement in the New World will serve as an excellent backdrop for ASBOG's National Meeting tentatively scheduled for the Fall of 2007. The Board's invitation to ASBOG was extended in compliance with Governor Warner's Executive Order Number 6 asking all state agencies and boards to actively recruit national conferences to Virginia.

Returning from Active Duty military service? If so, a bill passed by the 2004 Session of the Virginia General Assembly and signed by Governor Warner may be of interest. If your Virginia Certified Geologist certificate expired during your service outside of the United States and your certification has expired, you have 60 days from the date of your release from Active Duty to renew your certificate without penalty. To qualify, please send a copy of your DD-214 or other appropriate documentation to verify your active duty status.

REMINDERS:

1. **Renewal** – Regulations require Virginia certified professional geologists to be responsible for renewing their certification, **even if** they do not receive the renewal notice (regardless of reason, e.g. from change of address, exceeding forwarding period, or non-delivery). If renewal requirements are not completed by the end of the 30-day grace period, then the late payment fee is required. If not completed within six months, then reinstatement is required. Regulations do not give the Board authority to override these requirements. Renewal notices will be mailed in July of 2005.
2. **Change of Address** - It is a Virginia certified professional geologist's responsibility to inform the Board of a change of address. As stated above, not receiving the renewal notice does not remove the responsibility of renewal from the regulant.